

North-west Syria

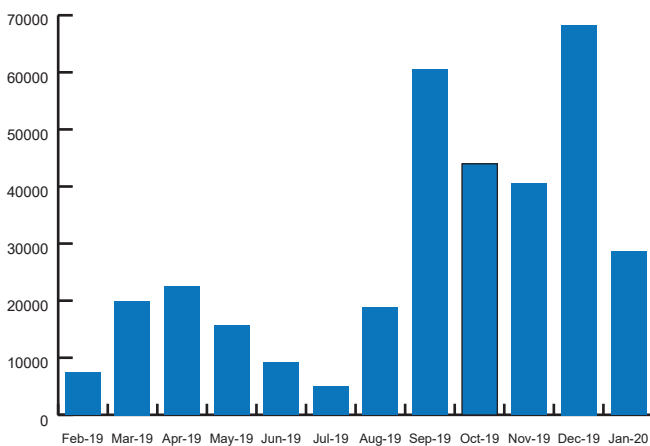
January 2020

Through its partners, in 2020, UNHCR has assisted more than **28,600 individuals** with core relief items, shelter material and house rehabilitation.

UNHCR has sent **25 trucks** across the border in 2020, carrying humanitarian supplies like blankets, hygiene kits, mattresses and tents.

In 2020, through its partners, UNHCR has reached **8,948 individuals** with protection services, such as information dissemination and referrals.

CRI AND EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSISTANCE

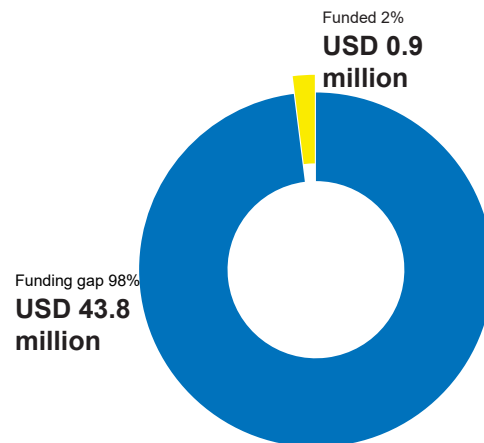


Number of **individuals reached** per month by UNHCR programme partners with core relief items and emergency shelter assistance in the last 12 months

FUNDING LEVEL as of the end of February 2020

USD 44.7 million

requested for the UNHCR cross-border humanitarian response



MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. Support the coordination of the cross-border humanitarian response through the Cluster system
2. Identify protection risks and assistance needs and inform the overall response
3. Provide protection services and emergency assistance with core relief items and shelter material
4. Build capacity of (local) humanitarian organizations
5. Fill critical gaps in the basic needs of IDPs where required and feasible

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

This year 2020 has started with a grave escalation in hostilities in Idleb and western Aleppo affecting hundreds of thousands of people across north-west Syria. This new wave of violence that started in mid-December 2019 caused more than half a million new IDPs by the end of January 2020, most of whom – around 80 per cent – are women and children. The fighting has caused the destruction of civilian infrastructure, including health facilities, schools, bakeries, and has disrupted the provision of basic services in Idleb. As a result of this, the humanitarian situation, which was already critical because of the fighting in the year before, continues to deteriorate and a harsh winter has aggravated the already dire living conditions of new and protracted IDPs.

In January, the UN Security Council Resolution that enables the cross-border humanitarian response was renewed for six months until 10 July 2020.

A Readiness and Response Plan for north-west Syria is still in play and outlines the planned response to the cross-border team in Turkey.

BACKGROUND

Following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2165, UNHCR established its cross-border activities from southern Turkey in July 2014. In 2020, through its own programme, UNHCR has partnerships with seven organizations - IRC, ACTED-REACH, WATAN, Bir Dunya Cocuk Dernegi (Children of One World), SHAFAK, NRC and Maram Foundation - to assist displaced people by providing core relief items (CRIs), shelter support, and protection services. In addition, UNHCR is leading the Protection, Shelter/NFI (SNFI) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters. All Clusters closely follow the humanitarian developments in the conflict areas in north-west Syria and contribute to emergency preparedness response plans accordingly.

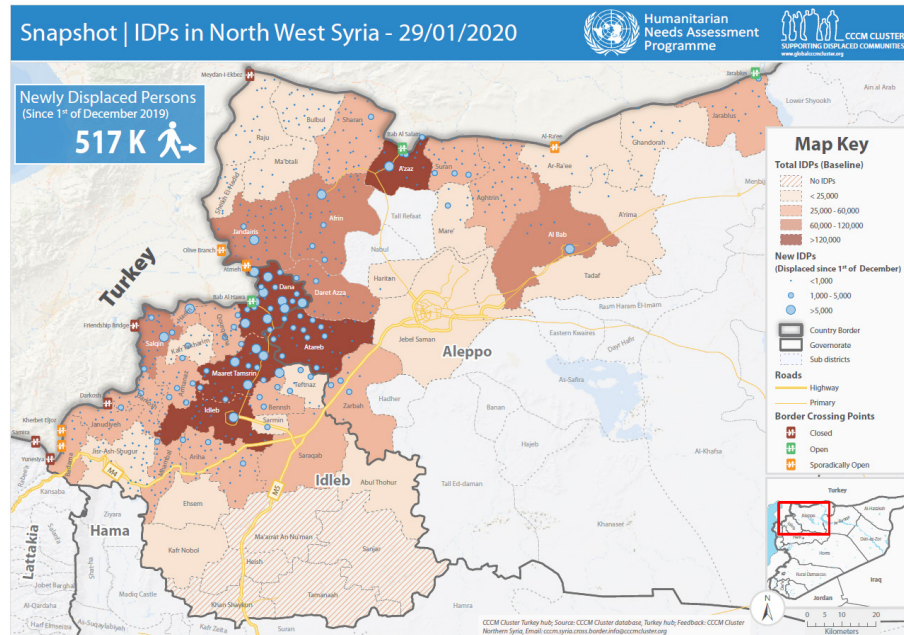
UNHCR Programme

UNHCR and its partners continued to provide basic assistance and protection services to IDPs and conflict-affected vulnerable host community members in north-west Syria under the cross-border operation from Gaziantep, Turkey. In January, **8,270 displaced people were assisted with 1,654 emergency NFI kits** (974 in Idleb and 680 in Aleppo) in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates. In addition, **1,056 people were assisted with 176 tents** in Idleb Governorate by UNHCR's partners in coordination with the UNHCR-led CCCM Cluster. During the month, **three transshipments** took place through Reyhanli-Bab Al Hawa and Kilis-Bab Al Salam border crossings, with 25 trucks carrying 5,000 emergency NFI kits and 600 tents to assist 28,600 newly displaced people.



IDP sites in Idleb © Maram Foundation

Moreover, UNHCR's protection partners conducted awareness raising and psychosocial support sessions, identified cases and referred them to basic services in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates; such **community-based protection interventions reached 4,152 people** in January. In addition, **4,796 displaced and vulnerable people received protection services** such as awareness raising on civil status documentation and housing, land and properties, legal counselling and assistance, case management and referrals.



CCCM Cluster

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, led by UNHCR, coordinates the efforts of **28 active member organizations** providing cross-border assistance in north-west Syria. Activities focus on coordinating the Cluster members to cover the multi-sectoral needs in **603 IDP sites hosting 973,861 individuals/186,339 families** in north-west Syria and, on behalf of the humanitarian community, track IDP movements. In January, 16 new IDPs sites were added to the list. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the population in these sites is comprised of women and children; more than 9,500 IDPs there are persons with specific needs.

The violence that had started in mid-December continued in January and caused hundreds of thousands of people

to move towards areas near the Syria-Turkey border. Movements were mainly to the north of Idleb and to Aleppo, particularly in the sub-districts of Dana, Maaret Tamsrin, Afrin and Atareb. The Cluster tracked **620,867 individual displacements in north-west Syria in January**, number that includes second or third displacements. **The new IDPs between 1 December and 30 January were 516,851.**

Because existing reception centres have now exceeded their maximum capacity, many of the new IDPs have found shelter outside of IDP sites like camps and reception centres: large numbers have gone to stay with host families, in rented houses, unfinished buildings; reports indicate that around 12,551 people have found shelter under trees or in open areas.

Shelter/NFI Cluster

The SNFI Cluster is led by UNHCR, coordinating the efforts of **48 active member organizations** in the cross-border operation. The Cluster addresses emergency shelter and NFI needs by providing in-kind assistance as well as cash or voucher assistance. It promotes household and community resilience. The Cluster also raises awareness and provides technical guidance on housing, land and property rights relevant for humanitarian shelter activities.

Freezing temperatures, snow and rain worsened the already difficult living conditions of the hundreds of thousands of IDPs in north-west Syria; **shelter options are extremely limited** and fuel for heating is largely unavailable or very expensive. In January, Cluster members continued to provide winter assistance to protracted IDPs and, at the same time, had to respond to the emergency resulted from the latest escalation of violence that had started in mid-December. In January, **SNFI Cluster members assisted more than 397,900 IDPs and members of the host community with NFI and/or shelter assistance** (85,700 individuals with shelter and over 312,200 individuals with NFI assistance, including winter assistance); more than 120,000 of these individuals were in Dana sub-district of Idleb Governorate.

Cluster members rolled out activities including **emergency/seasonal shelter assistance and shelter rehabilitation** to address the shelter needs of **over 98,600 people**; over 34,000 individuals received emergency shelter assistance, which includes family tents or shelter kits.

To address the increasing number of displacements, the winterization plan was revised and scaled up to target an additional 488,000 individuals among the new IDPs.

Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together **62 active members**, which include actors of the three Sub-Clusters: Child Protection (led by UNICEF and World Vision), Gender Based Violence (led by UNFPA and Global Communities) and Humanitarian Mine Action (led by UNMAS). The Cluster also convenes the Protection Monitoring Task Force (led by UNHCR and IRC) and a Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Technical Working Group (co-led by UNHCR and NRC) on a regular basis. The Cluster continues to prioritize the provision of lifesaving emergency response services to newly displaced populations and to expand specialized protection services through a wider geographic coverage and outreach capacity, including through mobile teams. In addition, the Cluster seeks to inform the overall response through protection monitoring, while also supporting capacity building with humanitarian actors to strengthen information and advocacy on protection concerns, and do-no-harm efforts.

In January, Protection Cluster members provided **198,083 interventions to IDPs and affected host community members** in 299 communities in three governorates (Idleb, Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa). The main services were: psychological first aid for 2,063 girls, 2,088 boys, 3,882 women and 3,324 men; legal awareness raising sessions focusing on house, land and property and/or civil status documentation for 793 girls, 290 boys, 3,187 women and 2,749 men; integrated/comprehensive case management services for 68 girls, 48 boys, 541 women and 152 men; and referrals to other services for 544 girls, 333 boys, 822 women and 349 men.

The **Protection Monitoring Task Force** conducted in January a total of **660 key informants' interviews** (376 males, 284 females) in Idleb, Hama and Aleppo Governorates reaching 124 communities within 30 sub-districts.

External and Donor Relations

Thanks to UNHCR's donors for supporting the humanitarian response in north-west Syria:

Canada | Germany | Denmark | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom